

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0432

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12743

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CGEN, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION - WILLIAM ROGER HOLDER AND

KATHERINE KERKOW

REF: (A) PARIS 9520, (B) STATE 72557, (C) PARIS 8635

1. HOLDER TELEPHONED EMBASSY EVENING OF APRIL 23 FROM PARIS HOSPITAL, SAYING HE WANTED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO AMERICAN HOSPITAL OF PARIS AND HE WANTED TO GO TO UNITED STATES "IMMEDIATELY." CONOFF VISITED HOLDER, FOUND HE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO HOSPITAL APRIL 22 BY "WIFE" CATHERINE KERKOW APPARENTLY FOR HAVING DRUNK SOME LIGHTER FLUID. HOLDER, WHOSE CASE DID NOT APPEAR SERIOUS, WAS IN CARE OF HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIST WHO NOTED THAT KERKOW DID NOT SEEM TO WANT HOLDER RELEASED TOO SOON. IN FACT, HOLDER WAS NOT RELEASED UNTIL APRIL 26 AND HE CAME TO EMBASSY APRIL 27.

2. IN VIEW OF HOLDER'S STATED DESIRE TO RETURN TO USA EMBASSY HAD MEANWHILE QUERIED EXAMINING MAGISTRATE ABOUT STATUS OF CASE. MAGISTRATE CONFIRMED HOLDER STILL UNDER JUDICIAL CONTROL AND STATED THAT HE WAS REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN FRANCE DURING INVESTIGATION (ALONG WITH KERKOW) OF CHARGES OF HIGHJACKING AND ILLEGAL RESTRAINT OF HOSTAGES. ACCORDING TO MAGISTRATE, HOLDER HAD TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM AT TIME OF LAST VISIT HE DID NOT WISH TO RETURN TO

UNITED STATES. MAGISTRATE PREPARED TO ACCEPT STATEMENT IN WRITING FROM HOLDER ABOUT CHANGE OF MIND, BUT MAGISTRATE WOULD NOT COMMIT SELF ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF LIFTING JUDICIAL CONTROL.

3. EMBASSY ALSO CHECKED WITH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (FROMONT) WHO WAS VERY NEGATIVE ABOUT IDEA OF HOLDER BEING RELEASED FOR RETURN TO UNITED STATES BEFORE COMPLETION OF FRENCH JUDICIAL PROCESS. FROMONT, USING EXPRESSION "DISGUISED EXTRADITION", SUGGESTED EMBASSY EXERCISE CAUTION IN ANY EFFORTS TO ASSIST HOLDER TO RETURN HOME. HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO HOLDER'S SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT OF DESIRE GO BACK TO UNITED STATES.

4. WHEN HOLDER CAME TO EMBASSY APRIL 27, HE HAD APPARENTLY LOST SOME OF HIS ZEAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FOR UNITED STATES. HE RESUMED EVASIVE, INARTICULATE WAYS OF PREVIOUS TWO VISITS (REFTELS A AND C) AND AVOIDED ANY EFFORT OF CONOFF TO ASCERTAIN HIS CURRENT INTENTIONS. HE SEEMED TO BE WAITING FOR SOME INDICATION THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR VOLUNTEERING TO RETURN TO UNITED STATES. CONOFF REITERATED THAT HE FACED US CHARGES AS WELL AS FRENCH CHARGES AND SUGGESTED THAT HOLDER DISCUSS WITH HIS ATTORNEY QUESTION OF PREPARING STATEMENT FOR EXAMINING MAGISTRATE. HOLDER SAID HE HAD FRENCH ATTORNEY BUT DID NOT NAME HIM. HE LEFT EMBASSY INDICATING HE WOULD BE BACK, BUT HAS NOT APPEARED AS OF END OF WEEK.

5. IN VIEW OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE POSITION AND HOLDER'S CONTINUED EVASIVENESS, PROSPECTS FOR HIS EARLY RETURN NOT PROMISING. HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE RE REFTEL B, IF TRAVEL BECOMES POSSIBLE, WHETHER PASSPORT OFFICE WILL ISSUE DOCUMENT TO BE SENT TO EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY HOLDER OR WHETHER EMBASSY TO ISSUE CARD OF IDENTITY FOR TRAVEL PURPOSES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, ON STANDBY BASIS, FISCAL DATA FOR PURCHASE OF TICKET SPECIFIED REFTEL B.

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